

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten text:

-- ~~An object of the invention is~~ A method and a device to
electrostatically discharge a printing material, to which a toner has been
applied, in an appropriate manner. ~~In accordance with the present invention, a~~
The method is provided for electrically discharging certain areas of a toner-
coated printing material, in particular for an electrophotographic printing
machine, ~~is provided, in which case certain areas of the printing material are~~
~~electrically discharged. Furthermore, a~~ The discharge device is provided for a
printing machine, specifically for an electrophotographic printing machine, ~~is~~
~~provided~~ for electrically discharging toner-coated printing material, ~~said~~ . The
device ~~using~~ uses a control device for electrically discharging certain areas of
the printing material.--